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Reagan to Fire Chief of CIA

Shake-Up At Agency In Planning

Quick Action Slated By President-Elect

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GOLETA, Calif. — President-elect Ronald Reagan, dismayed by what he considers to be serious deficiencies in the nation's intelligence-gathering capabilities, will remove Stansfield Turner as director of the CIA, according to sources close to Reagan.

They said that both Turner and his deputy, Frank Carlucci, would be replaced despite efforts by Turner to convince the incoming Republican administration that he should be allowed to remain.

"One task that has to be addressed immediately is to build up the CIA and our intelligence capacity," said Edwin Meese, chief of staff in the Reagan transition organization. "The Iranian situation showed us what's wrong with our intelligence. Our briefing at the State Department made it clear that they are getting their information from other embassies, other intelligence services, friends and businessmen who call them up. It is a tragedy.

"Our sources of intelligence are only as good as they feel they will be protected," Meese said. "If you have constant turmoil in agent handlers and people up and down the line, and if you don't know if agents are going to be exposed by Phillip Agee and people like that, it is hard to recruit informants and agents in other countries."

Reagan is scheduled to receive a CIA briefing next week, when he will be in Washington. Aides to the president-elect say he will tell Turner at that time that he intends to make his own nomination for a new CIA director from the list of names now being assembled by an appointments committee headed by Los Angeles attorney William French Smith.

Within the next few days, the Reagan transition office will send a small team headed by Lawrence Silberman, former ambassador to Yugoslavia, to CIA headquarters to begin planning a new structure for the agency.

One of the most important voices in recommending changes at the CIA will be that of David Abshire, chairman of the Georgetown University Center for Strategic and International Studies. Abshire, a former assistant secretary of state for congressional relations, heads one of the Reagan "issue cluster" teams for national security affairs.

Silberman, a former Justice Department official, is team leader for the CIA transition reporting to Abshire and John Lehman, former deputy director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Critics of Turner contend that his mass firings and retirements deprived the agency of its most experienced senior officers, damaged the morale of others, and would inhibit the recruitment of young officers. Turner has contended that the CIA has suffered no lack of bright young men and women anxious to become intelligence officers.